



21 May 2024

Dear Member,

I am writing to you to thank you for your efforts and support this past year.

As you are aware, the Guild has signed a Heads of Agreements for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA). The 8CPA will ensure the continued vitality and sustainability of community pharmacies and the vital services you and your staff provide to patients across Australia.

None of this would have been possible without your invaluable support.

Your efforts, combined with your staff have played a pivotal role in accelerating the 8CPA negotiations by eighteen months to resolve the issue of 60-day dispensing – securing an additional \$3 billion in community pharmacy funding, and in cheaper medicines. This marks the first instance of a government advancing negotiations for an early CPA.

With the 8CPA on track for commencement on 1 July, we anticipate a promising future for community pharmacy. At the time of writing, we are working through the fine print with the Government to ensure we get you the best deal.

The past 12 months have also seen an extraordinary expansion of community healthcare as state and territory Governments embrace pharmacists' full scope of practice.

Pharmacists prescribing for hormonal contraception and uncomplicated UTIs is becoming standard practice across the nation. Each Guild Branch has had success in advancing the role of pharmacists, further embedding our profession in the provision of community healthcare and improving the lives of our patients.

Pharmacists have worked hard to support their communities and further establish themselves as essential healthcare providers.

Supporting you through the changes

The landscape of community pharmacy is ever evolving. As we look towards the future, you can trust the Guild to consistently provide you and your business with support in this dynamic environment.

From workplace relations advice to insightful reports and quarterly business support webinars, the Guild is dedicated to empowering you at every turn and assisting you as the business owner and employer.

Furthermore, through your Guild you receive a free Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) membership valued at \$399 to take care of all your CPD needs. Membership of the College enhances your capabilities and expertise to keep you at the forefront of pharmacy practice.

A full list of the Guild Members' offerings is included in the attached document. We encourage you to make the most of the services available to support you, your team and your business viability.

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What is the Guild focusing on next?

While great strides have been made for scope of practice in Australia, we're not done yet. The initial 22 conditions must become permanent practice in every jurisdiction. Not just trials, and not a lottery of geography. We will continue to advocate for you to work to your full scope of practice, no matter where you are, to ensure that patients everywhere can access the healthcare they need, when they need it.

We also know that cost-of-living pressures are hurting everyone – our patients, our staff, our communities and our pharmacies. More than 20 per cent of people aged from 18 to 64 describe prescription medication as unaffordable.

This is unacceptable. Medicines are not ordinary consumables or items of commerce. There are consequences when patients can't afford their prescriptions.

Your Guild will continue to advocate to lower cost of medicines, ensuring that essential healthcare remains accessible and affordable for all.

Your continued support ensures that the Guild remains steadfast in our advocacy efforts on behalf of you and your patients, striving for optimal outcomes for community pharmacy.

As a token of our appreciation, we are pleased to have secured complimentary Blue Light Cards for you and your staff. This card, exclusive to frontline workers, offers discounts on over 350 brands—a small gesture of our gratitude for your continued membership.



Professor Trent Twomey
National President



Peter Hatswell
NT Branch President